

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



ORGANISATION MONDIALE
DE LA SANTÉ

Palais des Nations
GENEVA - SWITZERLAND
Telegr. : UNISANTE - Geneva

Tel. : 33 10 00 - 33 20 00 - 33 40 00

Palais des Nations
GENÈVE - SUISSE
Télégr. : UNISANTÉ - Genève

In reply please refer to :
Prière de rappeler la référence :

6 May 1959

Dear Dr Lederberg,

and as I discussed with you in Palo Alto recently
As you know, the World Health Organization has for some time had an interest in human genetics and has been associated with a number of activities in this field. At the present time the Organization is planning for an expanded programme in medical research, and in this connexion is examining what its rôle might best be in various areas of research. One of the areas in the field of human genetics which we would like to look at in this regard is that involving newer methods of investigation, such as tissue culture and techniques in human biochemical genetics.

We are asking a small group of consultants to meet together in Geneva on 19 and 20 May 1959 to consider this question and advise WHO on what its relationship might best be with regard to research in this area. We should be very pleased if you would be willing to be a member of this advisory group. The other whom we are asking, and who, together with yourself would make up the group, are Drs Cavalli-Sforza, Pontecorvo, Eagle and Neel. *I have just heard from Dr. Bendle that he unfortunately will not be able to get to Geneva at that time.*

We had originally planned to call this advisory group together later in the year; however, the Symposium in Naples from 13 to 16 May brings many of you together this month, so that it appeared extremely desirable to convene the group shortly after the Symposium rather than ask you to come together again later, which would probably be less convenient.

If you are able to accept this invitation, as we hope you will be, you will be engaged as a Temporary Adviser to the World Health Organization. You will be reimbursed for your travel equivalent to a direct round trip from Naples to Geneva by air first class and will receive US\$ 20 per diem for the two days of the meeting and one day of travel. Hotel rooms in Geneva for that time are difficult to find, so, anticipating your affirmative reply, we have booked a double room for you at the Hotel Bali for the nights of 19 and 20 May.

Dr J. Lederberg
Department of Genetics
Stanford University Medical School
Stanford
California
USA

cc: MRP

cc: Dr Lederberg, Symposium on Human Biochemical Genetics, Stazione Zoologica,
Naples

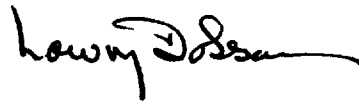
Dr J. Lederberg

page 2
6 May 1959

As time is so short, please let me hear from you at your very earliest convenience as to whether you will be able to participate in this meeting and whether the travel arrangements and hotel booking are satisfactory. The meeting will convene at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 19 May, in Room K.4 of the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

Looking forward to seeing you here,

Yours sincerely,



R. Lowry Dobson, M.D., Ph.D.
Chief Medical Officer
Radiation and Isotopes

P.S. I am sending you under separate cover a copy of a document "The Rôle of WHO in Medical Research" which gives some of the general background thinking on the question of what WHO's position should be in relation to research. This paper may be of interest to you in connexion with the meeting on the 19th.